



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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PSC TO HOLD ON-THE-RECORD PRESENTATION IN CASE REVIEWING RELAY MISSOURI SURCHARGE

Jefferson City (February 20, 2003)---The Missouri Public Service Commission will conduct an on-the-record presentation on **March 3, 2003**, in order to receive additional information in a case reviewing the current surcharge which appears on Missouri telephone bills to fund a statewide dual party relay system for the hearing and speech impaired (Relay Missouri).

The Relay Missouri Program provides deaf, hearing-impaired and speech-impaired citizens access to the telephone network to complete a call. A communications assistant translates a call so that a hearing/speech impaired party can communicate with any other party.

In a November 5, 2002 filing, the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission asked the Commission open a case to review the surcharge that funds the Relay Missouri Program. As part of the filing, the PSC Staff recommended that the current surcharge of 9 cents a month per telephone access line not be changed. In a supplemental recommendation filed on February 10, 2003, the PSC Staff has recommended the surcharge increase from 9 cents a month per telephone access line to 10 cents a month per telephone access line. That recommendation was based on updated projections.

The on-the-record presentation will be held on March 3, 2003, in Room 310 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, in Jefferson City. The Governor Office Building meets the accessibility standards required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. Anyone needing additional accommodations to participate in the presentation should call the Public Service Commission's hotline at 1-800-392-4211 (voice) or 1-800-829-7541 (TDD) as soon as possible.

In 1990, the Missouri General Assembly enacted legislation requiring the Missouri Public Service Commission to investigate and determine the most beneficial and cost-effective method to implement a statewide dual party relay system. Missouri law requires the Commission to review the monthly surcharge no less frequently than every two years but no more than annually and to concurrently review the percentage deducted and retained by local telephone companies for billing and collection costs.

In March of 2001, the Missouri Public Service Commission lowered the monthly surcharge from 13 cents a month per telephone access line to its current rate of 9 cents a month in order that revenues generated reflect expenses to administer the fund.

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